

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

3367
4 MAY 76

INDICATE
☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO 376 MAY 4

E.O. 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

FROM
AmEmbassy KABUL

CLASSIFICATION

GDS
SNAR, AF
Poppy Cultivation in Afghanistan

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO: USMISSION GENEVA

~~REDACTED~~ KABUL 3367

AMB
DCM
POL
DEA
AID/D
PAO
ECON
CHRON

1. When Desk Officer Austrian and I saw Deputy Foreign Minister Abdullah on May 2, we hit him hard on the subject of poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. We mentioned that his UN colleague UNFDAC Director de Beus and Michael Davies during their recent visit to Nangarhar Province had noted a great increase in poppy cultivation in that area, compared to the same period 12 months ago. Austrian said that he had counted 106 poppy fields of varying sizes in the Kandahar-Lashkargah-Kajakai area (not, however, in U.S. project areas) earlier this week. We stressed that not only was Afghan poppy cultivation contributing to serious human problems wherever the opium was consumed but that the fact that poppy cultivation is not being controlled would sooner or later become public knowledge and would have an adverse effect on our ability to maintain our

DRAFTED BY: AMB:TLEliot,Jr:kst	DRAFTING DATE 5/4/76	TEL. EXT. 10	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: The Ambassador
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CLEARANCES:
POL:WHHallman (draft)
NEA/PAB:MAust

DCM:RTCurran

CLASSIFICATION

DECLASSIFIED

A/ISS/IPS, Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
October 11, 2007

OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

economic assistance to Afghanistan. In this connection, Austrian cited various ~~pieces~~ ^{pieces} of proposed legislation on this subject introduced in Congressional committees. We urged Abdullah to do something about this problem quickly.

2. In response, Abdullah began by referring to the difficulty of convincing farmers to stop growing poppies unless they can make an equivalent income from other crops. We told him that in areas such as the Helmand Valley it should be possible to convince farmers that the Government is doing enough for them through economic development programs so that they need not grow poppies.

3. Abdullah also said that one of the problems facing Afghanistan is the existence of criminal elements in the United States, Western Europe and Iran which traffic in opium. He urged us to crack down on these elements. He also pointed with pride at Afghan efforts ~~in~~ in recent months to crack down on smuggling within Afghanistan.

4. Finally, Abdullah said that he recognized the seriousness of this problem and would discuss it with the Ministers of Agriculture and Interior to see what could be done.

5. DCM and AID Director have made parallel approaches to the Director-General of the Foreign Ministry and the Governor of the Helmand Province. The Governor, when

told of poppy-growing in U. S. project areas, took immediate steps to ~~eradicate~~ ^{eradicate} the plants.

6. The U. S. Mission's Narcotics Committee is beginning a series of meetings to improve our present data base on poppy culture and develop recommendations for further action in the prevention area.

ELIOT 